

Message Text

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FOR ANDREWS FROM MAGEE

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

REF: STATE 093837

1. SONANDRES ETA. WE ARE SURPRISED AT QUESTION OF POLITICAL/
ECONOMIC OFFICER SONANDRES' ETA WHICH WE UNDERSTOOD WAS ESTAB-
LISHED (AND CONFIRMED IN TMONE) AS 7/78. WE MUST INSIST ON
HOLDING TO THIS, AND IN ADDITION STRONGLY URGE SONANDRES TO
ARRANGE TO ARRIVE SUFFICIENTLY EARLY IN MONTH TO PROVIDE SHORT
OVERLAP WITH SIMPSON.

2. THIS SUMMER WILL BE DIFFICULT AND BUSY PERIOD HERE. DCM
IS DEPARTING ON DEFERRED HOME LEAVE JULY 1, RETURNING LATTER
PART OF AUGUST. THERE IS UNCERTAINTY AS TO ECON/COMM OFFICER
CLARKE'S DEPARTURE DATE (TENTATIVELY END OF JUNE) WHICH COULD
RESULT IN OVER A MONTH'S GAP BEFORE HIS REPLACEMENT, HACKER,
ARRIVES. IN MEANTIME POL/ECON SECTION BESIDES REGULAR WORK-
LOAD WILL BE SEIZED WITH TWO OF MOST IMPORTANT (AND MOST
TIME-CONSUMING) PROJECTS OF YEAR: PLOVDIV TRADE FAIR
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2, AND INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS CONFER-
ENCE ON NARCOTICS (CO-HOSTED BY US) WHICH BEGINS SEPTEM-
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BER 11 IN VARNA. SONANDRES AS NARCOTICS COORDINATOR WILL
HAVE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR VARNA CONFERENCE PREPARA-
TIONS WHICH ARE ALREADY TAKING UP A GOOD DEAL OF SIMPSON'S
TIME. IN ADDITION SONANDRES MUST OVERSEE PLOVDIV PREPARA-
TIONS AND, IF THERE IS APPRECIABLE GAP BETWEEN CLARKE AND
HACKER, TO FILL THAT GAP NOT ONLY ON PLOVDIV, BUT ACROSS
THE BOARD ON WHOLE RANGE OF ECON/COMM WORK. FINALLY

RWITH DCM AWAY, SONANDRES AS NEXT RANKING OFFICER CAN EXPECT TO BE GIVEN SOME EXTRA ASSIGNMENTS BY AMBASSADOR.

3. SIMPSON IS AWAITING ONWARD ASSIGNMENT AND DOES NOT YET HAVE FIRM DEPARTURE DATE, BUT WE ASSUME HE WILL LEAVE AROUND MID-JULY. IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE (EVEN MORE SO WITH DCM ON HOME LEAVE) THAT HE AND SONANDRES HAVE SHORT OVERLAP.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BULGARIAN LANGUAGE COURSE ENDS JUNE 22. SONANDRES SHOULD BE ABLE TO SCHEDULE COMMERCE MEETINGS AND ANY REMAINING DEPT CONSULTATIONS DURING AFTERNOONS WHILE STILL AT FSI, LEAVING ONLY THE ONE-DAY TERRORISM SEMINAR TO BE COMPLETED AFTER BULGARIAN COURSE ENDS. WITH AN ETA AT SOFIA OF ROUGHLY MID-JULY (EXACT TIMING TO BE WORKED OUT WITH SIMPSON'S DEPARTURE, TO ALLOW A FEW DAYS OVERLAP) THIS SHOULD PERMIT NEARLY THREE WEEKS LEAVE. IF SONANDRES' PERSONAL PLANS REQUIRE A LONGER LEAVE AT THIS TIME, WE SUGGEST THAT IT BE ARRANGED AT EXPENSE OF LAST FEW OF HIS 44 WEEKS OF LANGUAGE TRAINING.

GARTHOFF

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